

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

February 11, 2010
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Phoenix: Debbie Cotton, Chair

ADOT: Mike Normand

Avondale: Rogene Hill

Buckeye: Andrea Marquez

Chandler: RJ Zeder

El Mirage: Pat Dennis

Gilbert: Michelle Gramley for Tami Ryall

Glendale: Cathy Colbath

Goodyear: Cato Esquivel

Maricopa County: Mitch Wagner

Mesa: Mike James

Paradise Valley: William Mead

Peoria: Maher Hazine

*Queen Creek: Wendy Kaserman

Scottsdale: Theresa Huish

#Surprise: Michael Celaya

Tempe: Robert Yabes for Jyme Sue McLaren

#Tolleson: Chris Hagen

Valley Metro Rail: Wulf Grote

Regional Public Transportation Authority:

Carol Ketcherside

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference
- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Kevin Wallace, MAG

Alice Chen, MAG

Patty Camacho, MAG

DeDe Gaisthea, MAG

Sarath Joshua, MAG

Marc Pearsall, MAG

Steve Tate, MAG

Kristen Sexton, Avondale

John Bolten, Glendale

Jenna Goad, Glendale

Jeff Martin, Mesa

Jorie Bresnahan, Phoenix

Ken Kessler, Phoenix

Tom Remes, Phoenix

Bob Antila, RPTA

Scott Miller, HDR

Lauren Neu, Strand Associates

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32p.m. by Chair Debbie Cotton of the City of Phoenix. Chair Cotton welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a Quorum was present.

Chair Cotton introduced two members of the Transit Committee who were participating remotely for this meeting, Committee members Chris Hagen (Tolleson) and Michael Celaya (Surprise), via teleconference.

Chair Cotton also invited members in attendance to introduce themselves if this was their first Transit Committee meeting.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any public comment cards and if there were any members of the public who would like to comment. Chair Cotton stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft January 14, 2010 Minutes

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments, changes or corrections to the meeting minutes. Hearing none, Chair Cotton called for a motion to approve the draft minutes from January 14.

Mr. Wulf Grote moved to approve the draft January 14, 2010 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Robert Yabes seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Draft January 14, 2010 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Chair Cotton stated that there were no additional comments and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

There being no 'request to speak' cards from the audience, Chair Cotton proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

There was no Transit Program Manager's Report for this month. Chair Cotton proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

5. Programming 2009 and 2010 for the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Transit Component of the Draft 2011-2015 MAG TIP.

Chair Cotton introduced Mr. Wallace, MAG Transit Program Manager, for this agenda item.

Mr. Wallace explained that he was presenting this item on behalf of Ms. Eileen Yazzie, who was out on maternity leave with her new son. Mr. Wallace mentioned that this item was on the agenda for information, discussion and possible action.

Mr. Wallace provided an overview of recent activities and guidelines for the Program of Projects. Some of the guidelines include programming projects for the TLCP update for the bus program, utilizing existing funding guidelines and programming all of the available 5307 and 5309 funds for fixed guideway modernization for 2009 and 2010.

Mr. Wallace mentioned a point of discussion that MAG staff is proposing increasing the 5307 funding for Preventative Maintenance, which MAG believes would assist local operators with their budget cuts. Mr. Wallace also explained that need to develop and evaluation process for currently unprogrammed funds, with an option for allocating more funds for preventative maintenance in future TIP allocations. Mr. Wallace specified that Preventative Maintenance/Associated Capital Maintenance is indeed included in the current TIP along with their items, but earlier decisions had been previously frozen at current funding levels. He gave a brief overview of the federal funding guidelines process in the MAG region and directed the Committee members to their packets. It included a list of project listing for unprogrammed fund balances. These were divided among two TIPs that require action, the 2008-2012 TIP and the 2011-2015 TIP. 5307 and 5309 projects are identified within these lists. Explanation followed.

Chair Cotton requested that Mr. Wallace define 'Preventative Maintenance' for the Committee members.

Mr. Wallace responded that 'Preventative Maintenance' by FTA guidelines is funding that includes routine maintenance activities on inventory such as fleet and facilities. MAG is working to get a working list that includes the sum annual total for the MAG region for bus transit maintenance, which is estimated in the \$35,000.000 annually. Rail is an eligible mode for 'Preventative Maintenance' under FTA auspices, so in future years this mode will be included for its own share of PM under the MAG region requests. Discussion followed.

Mr. Wallace referred to current action items required of the MAG Transit Committee. Action 1 was the 2009-2010 Programming Options (2008-2012 MAG TIP) and Action 2 was the Draft FY 2011-2015. Both of these items will need action by the Transit Committee by March so that they can move forward through the MAG Committee Process.

Ms. Alice Chen was invited to give a brief update for the Modifications to the TIP. A majority of modifications came from the attachment, Section 5309, 'Fixed-Guideway Modernization' for year 2009. Discussion followed.

Ms. Carol Ketcherside requested clarification on the item. She asked if the change pertained only to express buses, and not BRT. Ms. Chen concurred that these were express buses only.

Mr. RJ Zeder asked for clarification on the relationship between the TLCP and the TIP in lieu of the recent budget changes. In referring to the PowerPoint presentation chart, Mr. Wallace followed with a explanation overview on each program and the process of how each is managed and funded.

Mr. Grote offered further detail, clarification and history of the programs for the Committee.

Mr. Mike James inquired on the purpose of the Transit Committee's role in allocating funds for these two action items, specifically if the Committee was charged with creating a funding formula. Mr. Wallace replied that there is an existing funding formula that is already in place that will be used in allocating funds to the two TIP items.

Ms. Rogene Hill inquired as to light rail's share of the 5307 funding source. Mr. Grote responded that the FTA's current formula is not clear, but that it was assumed that the formula funds would increase for rail.

Ms. Ketcherside requested that 5307 be used for a timely Origin & Destination Survey study. Mr. Grote replied that a \$600,000 expenditure to ensure a viable Origin & Destination Survey that will benefit both bus and rail on a regional level, is an eligible use of 5307 funds. A brief discussion followed regarding the action items before the Committee and if the O&D is a proper use of 5307 funds for FY2010. The Committee as a whole concurred that this was a prudent use of 5307 funds considering its overall positive impact on the region's transit.

Mr. Wallace replied that in light of the array of questions, comments and concerns regarding the action items' content, that it is recommended that both action items be deferred until the March meeting in order to allow MAG staff to confer with Committee members for their input.

Chair Cotton stated that there will be no action. This item will be deferred until the March 11 meeting for action by the Transit Committee. Chair Cotton asked that comments and further changes should be submitted to MAG staff by Friday February 19th.

Chair Cotton stated that there were no additional comments and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

6. Federal Economic Stimulus Legislation

Chair Cotton introduced Ms. Alice Chen, MAG Transportation Planner, for this agenda item.

Ms. Chen explained that this item was on the agenda for information, discussion and possible action and gave a brief overview of the ARRA proposed House Bill legislation that was proposed by the House of Representatives in December 2009. H.R. 2847 identifies \$75 billion to fund a variety of programmatic areas in a bill similar to ARRA. Projects to be under contract within a 90-day period Allocates \$6.15 billion to transit which is approximately \$750 million less than ARRA.

Ms. Chen offered further details regarding the new proposed legislation. The potential for a second round of stimulus funding had been on the agenda for information and discussion during MAG committee meetings. The time line and the certainty of the bill passing was still unknown, but it was anticipated that if a bill does pass, it will have similar or shorter spending provision deadlines than that of the original ARRA program. Unlike the original 90-day obligation period, the spending provision requires projects to be under contract within a 90-day period. The legislation in its current form allocates \$6.15 billion to transit which is approximately \$750 million less than the ARRA.

Ms. Chen further explained that in anticipation that a second round of stimulus legislation will be passed and given the need for operating and preventative maintenance assistance regionwide, staff is recommending that funds that are required to be under contract within 90-days be allocated towards preventative maintenance, ADA operations, and ADA preventative maintenance by applying the principles outlined by RPTA for project savings from ARRA I funds. For the balance of funds the MAG Transit Committee will be tasked with recommending projects and priorities at a future date.

Ms. Chen added that MAG is endorsing the RPTA Allocation Methodology for Operating Assistance. This methodology would include: 1) Operating assistance for bus and rail (10%) with a split using operating costs (approximately 87% bus / 13% rail); 2) Operating assistance for bus, allocated based on revenue miles of service provided within urbanized area; 3) Operating assistance for light rail, allocated based on track miles of service provided within urbanized area, and 4) ADA Assistance (10%), allocated based on ADA trips provided within urbanized area.

Mr. Yabes inquired if 8715 funding is only permitted for operating assistance only, or was it also available for preventative maintenance as well.

Ms. Chen replied that the funds are available for both.

Ms. Ketcherside asked if the action item related to operations could be amended to read 'up to the maximum allowable' under federal law, instead of the 10% cap. General discussion and comments from the Committee members followed.

Requested Action Item: MAG recommends that Transit Committee accept that funds that are required to be under contract within ninety days be allocated towards operations (up to maximum allowable), ADA operations and ADA preventative maintenance (10%), and preventative maintenance by applying the principles outlined by RPTA for project savings from ARRA I funds; and amend the FY 2008- 2012 MAG TIP as appropriate.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, Chair Cotton called for a motion.

Ms. Pat Dennis moved to accept the motion with amendment 'up to the maximum allowable funds'. Mr. Grote seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cotton stated that there were no additional comments and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

7. Regional Transit Framework Study

Mr. Wallace explained that this item was on the agenda last month for information and discussion, but is on this month's agenda for action.

Mr. Wallace gave a brief update on the Regional Transit Framework Study (RTFS) to the Committee. In cooperation with MAG member agencies, the Regional Public Transportation Authority, (RPTA) and Valley Metro Rail (METRO), MAG has developed a Regional Transit Framework to identify regional transit needs beyond the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The framework provides decision-makers with a comprehensive perspective on the costs, schedules, trade-offs, impacts, and policy implications of three distinct transit investment scenarios for year 2030. In addition, the framework defines more conceptual transit needs for year 2050. The Transit Committee received a briefing on the draft Framework at the January 2010 meeting. Copies of the draft document and executive summary were distributed in the January meeting packet. The study documents were also available on the following website: www.bqaz.org.

Mr. Wallace noted that while significant progress has been made in recent years to develop transit in our region, most of our peers are investing more than us in their regional transit systems. Public interest in transit is high in the MAG region as is significant agency interest in additional work to strengthen the land use/transit connection. The Study recommends that more work needs to be done for performance/market based planning, and the Peer Region Review Panel observed that the MAG region is more a collection of routes versus a true regional transit system. Another recommendation is that alternative land use scenarios/Transit Oriented Development needs to be seriously addressed from a regional policy perspective.

Mr. Wallace detailed the three levels of regional transit service were studied within the RTFS; I-Basic Mobility (lowest level); II-Enhanced Mobility (moderate) and III-Transit Choice (Higher). Scenarios II & III included additional funding for local transit service investments such as circulators or for local bus routes.

Mr Wallace stated that the MAG Transportation Policy Committee and would give the Transit Committee direction study implementation while the Transit Committee would focus on technical issues.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments.

Ms. Dennis inquired as to further explanation on the MAG Region's investment per capita (\$71) in comparison to other regions, and what value would it give the Region. Mr. Wallace gave further detail on the funding scenarios. Discussion and comment followed.

Ms. Hill commented that as per constant discussions with MAG staff, the region needs to ensure that there is an accurate correlation between projections and realities of land use, population, etc. This report's data was in no way final and would need constant refinement and inclusion into the report, which MAG would work to update in the coming years.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, Chair Cotton called for a motion.

Requested Action Item: MAG recommends that Transit Committee accept the findings of the Regional Transit Framework as the public transportation framework for the MAG region; accept the Illustrative Transit Corridors map for inclusion as unfunded regional transit, illustrative corridors in the Regional Transportation Plan and recommend future planning actions identified in the study for consideration through the MAG Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) process.

Mr. Zeder moved to accept the motion action item as proposed..

Mr. James seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cotton stated that there were no additional comments and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Cotton asked if the members of the Transit Committee had any issues that they would like to see as a future agenda item.

Hearing none, Chair Cotton moved onto the next item on the agenda.

9. Next Meeting Date

Chair Cotton informed members in attendance that the next regular meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 1:30 pm in the Saguaro Room.

Chair Cotton thanked those in attendance for attending the MAG Transit Committee meeting.

There being no further business, Chair Cotton adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.